

10/624,559

REMARKS

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Office Action dated July 22, 2004. For the following reasons, this application should be considered in condition for allowance and the case passed to issue.

Claims 1-5 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Frederick. Claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Frederick. These rejections are hereby traversed and reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested. The limitations of claim 5 have been incorporated into claim 1, and hence the argument presented below relate to the rejection of claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b). Claim 5 has been canceled. The limitations of claim 5 have also been added to claim 7, so that the rejection of claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 should also be reconsidered and withdrawn for at least the same reasons.

As provided in amended claim 1, the present invention relates to an attachment clip for attaching a first member to a second member having a bolt projecting therefrom. This first member has a bolt hole formed to allow passage of a shank of the bolt. The attachment clip comprises a clip body and a plurality of engagement claws. The clip body has an abutting part for abutment on the first member. The abutting part has a shank hole for passage of the shank of the bolt. The plurality of engagement claws are formed around the shank hole so as to project in the inner periphery of the clip body to the shank hole inwardly in a radial direction. The claws are also inclined to the clip body so that respective engagement tips of the engagement depart from the clip body along an axial direction of the attachment chip. This provides the engagement claws as a whole with a substantial cone-shaped configuration. The engagement claws can engage with the shank of the bolt of the second member while urging the first member toward the second member along an axial direction

10/624,559

of the bolt. The engagement claws include at least two specific claws adjoining in the circumferential direction of the shank hole. The engagement tips of the two specific claws are apart from each other at a predetermined distance in a direction of the height of the attachment clip. This predetermined distance is equal to one or more pitches of threads formed on the shank of the bolt.

With this configuration, in which the engagement tips of two specific claws are apart from one another at a predetermined distance in a direction of the height of the attachment clip, this predetermined distance being equal to one or more pitches of threads formed on the shank of the bolt, a smooth rotational movement of the engagement tips along the threads of the bolt is provided. This thereby improves workability in a detaching operation. See, for example, the description at page 15, lines 4-12 of the application. The cited reference, Frederick, fails to show or suggest such a feature.

In order to anticipate claims, a single prior art reference must identically disclose each and every element of the claimed invention. This high burden has not been met by the citation of Frederick, U.S. Patent No. 3,203,302. Frederick describes a self-locking sheet metal nut. In this nut, the opposed portions of the periphery are bent to one side of the nut to define "grippers" 13. The grippers 13 engage thread of the bolt 16. However, the tips of the grippers 13 are at the same height in the direction of the height of the nut. There is nothing in the Frederick disclosure that describes any differences in height between the grippers 13 in the direction of the height of the nut. Accordingly, Frederick cannot be said to identically disclose the claimed invention, either in claim 1 or in claim 7, both of which have been amended to include the limitations of claim 5. Frederick cannot anticipate either of these claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102 since it does not identically disclose each and every element of the claimed invention. Nor is there any suggestion for making the grippers have a separation from each other that is a predetermined distance in a direction of the

10/624,559

height of the attachment clip, this predetermined distance being equal to one or more pitches of threads formed on the shank of the bolt.

For the above reasons, the rejection of claims 1-4 and 6-7 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and § 103 should be reconsidered and withdrawn and such action is respectfully requested.

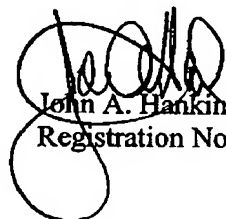
CONCLUSION

In light of the amendments and remarks above, this application should be considered in condition for allowance and the case passed to issue. If there are any questions regarding this Amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated to expedite the prosecution of the application.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 502624 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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